

Broadcasting violent rodeos on TV should be illegal. Broadcasting an animal getting tortured is not only sick, but it creates a violent society. The majority of the animals used in rodeos—broncos, bulls, steer, and calves—are not naturally aggressive. Their wild and combative behavior in rodeos is artificially induced by painful or irritating provocation. In order to agitate the broncos to make them buck, handlers poke electric prods and often slap or kick them. Then, handlers tighten the "bucking strap," a leather strap that's fastened tightly below the animal's rib cage. According to veterinarian Peggy Larson, this creates severe agitation, which paired with spurring, causes the animals to buck wildly, often resulting in serious injuries and fatalities. While cowboys claim that the broncos are naturally bucking animals and that the bucking strap does not harm them, rodeo horses frequently exhibit open sores on their flanks, caused by the agitation of the strap. Several American cities, such as Pittsburgh, have in effect banned rodeo by outlawing the use of the flank strap because it is so cruel. Without the use of the flank strap, the animals won't buck, so they can't perform. In steer-wrestling, while one person, the "hazer," keeps the steer running in a straight line, a second mounted cowboy chases the steer, then grabs him by the horns and forcibly twists the steer's neck and slams him to the ground.

In the notorious calf-roping event, cowboys demonstrate their ability to rope and tie up four- to five-month-old baby calves in the shortest amount of time. Handlers prod them, twist and yank their tails, and then release calves from pens. The frightened animals run from the gate at speeds of up to twenty-seven miles per hour, are then lassoed by the neck, often snapping their heads back as they come to an abrupt stop. Sometimes they are jerked over backwards. They are then slammed to the ground and have their legs tied. When rodeos are shown on television, the camera typically cuts away from the calf before he is thrown to the ground in order to spare the audience the sight of such brutality. The name of the calf-roping event was recently changed to "tie-down roping" in order to downplay the use of the baby animals. Even many cowboys agree that calf roping is inhumane. Keith Martin, the executive director of San Antonio Livestock Exposition, told the San Antonio Express-News, "Do I think it hurts the calf? Sure I do. I'm not stupid. "

The airwaves were supposed to be for the use of the people. Instead, it is used to show animal abuse and torture.